

Abstract

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

1. When Wilhelm Pieck travels, he is often accompanied by Josef (Sepp) Schwab, a Communist of long Party experience. As a militant Communist in the Bayrische Räterepublik, he was imprisoned in the fortress of Niederschönfeld (Lech) with other Communist leaders such as Ernst Toller, Ernst Niekisch, Erich Wollenberg, Gustav Klingelhofer, and Valentin Hartig. During their incarceration, this group occupied themselves studying military strategy and tactics for civil war. Schwab, who was less of an intellectual than the rest of the group, used to express his attitude at this time as: "I know of only one strategy: to arrange one's forces so as to be able to escape in any direction" (Ich kenne nur eine Strategie: Man muss seine Kräfte so arrangieren dass man nach jeder Richtung ausbrechen kann.). He was released from the fortress in 1921 or 1922 and became a leading figure in the Bavarian Communist Party. In 1927 he was called to Moscow and made Secretary of the Western European Secretariat of the Comintern. Schwab returned to Berlin with the Russian troops.

25X1 Comment: Schwab followed his tactical principles by always choosing the winning side in internal Party struggles. Of his fellow prisoners, Klingelhoefter is now an SPD leader in Berlin, and Hartig, employed first by the International Trade Unions League in Paris, then by the Germans during the occupation, is now active in SED in the Russian Zone. He was the last man seen with Willi Muenzenberg. Niekisch is probably now a member of the Kulturbund in Berlin; Klingelhoefter was SPD Political Secretary in Berlin, trying to influence the Party to adopt a line more favorable to the Russians. Schwab himself was formerly editor of a Free Germany paper.

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